

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 under the header entitled "CROSS-REFERENCE TO ELATED APPLICATIONS" and substitute therefore the following new paragraph:

(B) This application is a continuation of US Patent Application Serial No. 09/248,716, filed February 10, 1999, which claims the benefit of US Provisional Application Serial No. 60/074,294, filed February 11, 1998, which applications are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Please delete the header on page 1, line 9 entitled "STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT."

Please delete the ~~paragraph~~ beginning on page 1, line 10 that is immediately below the header entitled "STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT."

In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked up paragraph illustrating the changes introduced by the foregoing amendment(s) to the specification is provided as Appendix A.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-46 without prejudice of or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein.

2 Please add new claims 47 and 48 as follows:

(B2) 47. (New) A method for obtaining an immunomodulatory polynucleotide that has an optimized modulatory effect on an immune response as compared to the response prior to optimization, or encodes a polypeptide that has an optimized modulatory effect on an immune response as compared to the response prior to optimization, the method comprising:

a) creating a library of recombinant polynucleotides; and